

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

I moved to Connecticut for my career. I'm originally from Wisconsin (Madison and Milwaukee) and have also lived in North Carolina. When living in Milwaukee, I used to ride my bike to dinner, to the farmer's market, work, grocery store, the beach, etc. They have a lot of bike lanes and bike-friendly roads (with wider shoulders). I'd be a fool to ride to dinner here, where there are few street lights, fast traffic and very few bike lanes. I rarely ride anywhere in broad daylight, either, which adds my car to the congested roads and pares away my quality of life. I'm 29 and I do not plan to stay and raise a family here, in part because I know there are friendlier places out there that better align with my values, which definitely includes cycling in daily life.

Where I live in Wilton, it is impossible to safely walk or bike anywhere. In order to leave my house to go to work, I have to ride on either Hwy 33 or Hwy 7, where shoulders are nonexistent and the speed limit is 40mph. (I won't even start in on the dangerous potholes.) The towns in the area are walkable when you're in the town center, but for the most part this area of Connecticut is a land of strip malls with fast traffic and no sidewalks or bike lanes, the worst of the small town and the city. Wouldn't it be great if a family in Fairfield could bike over to Westport for some ice cream, or to the beach? Or walk to dinner together at night?

Connecticut has a lot of beautiful things – its history, great hiking trails, etc – but it's lagging behind in transportation. Don't let it become a bigger problem. Improve the quality of life here for people trying to get to work without hopping in their car, and children trying to safely get to soccer practice and learn independence.

Please support HB 6840 and add value to your beautiful state.  
Katy Steudel